

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/725,653	HUANG ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Ryan A. Jarrett	2125	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 7/27/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3 and 5-7.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 27 July 2005 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The amendments to claims 1 and 5 pertain to grammatical and antecedent basis issues. Claims 12-15 were cancelled since they were drawn to a non-elected invention.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Daniel McClure on 8/15/05.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 1 line 11, "transfers" was replaced with --transfer--.

In claim 1 line 11, "branch is" was replaced with --branches are--.

In claim 5 line 12, "transfers" was replaced with --transfer--.

In claim 5 line 13, "branch is" was replaced with --branches are--.

Claims 12-15 were cancelled.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-3 and 5-7 are allowed.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Applicant has amended the claims in accordance with the previously indicated reasons for allowance. The prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest a track subsystem comprising a delivery part and a load part comprising a plurality of branches corresponding to stocker body load ports, wherein the branches of the load part transfer articles in the same direction, and both ends of the branches are connected to the delivery part, in combination with the remaining features and elements of the claimed invention. This amended claim language generally corresponds to the systems depicted in Applicant's Figure 2 and Figure 3.

Liu US 6,745,102 discloses a track subsystem comprising a delivery part (Fig. 2 #110) and a load part comprising a branch (Fig. 2 #130) corresponding to stocker body load ports (Fig. 2 #140), wherein the branch of the load part transfers articles in the same direction, and both ends of the branch (Fig. 2 #131,132) are connected to the delivery part (Fig. 2 #110).

However, Liu does not disclose, **“a plurality of branches corresponding to the first load ports”** of the stocker body. Per the Applicant's claim language, each branch of the load part is associated with (or corresponds to) a particular stocker port or set of ports (see Applicant's Fig. 2 and Fig. 3). However, in Liu, there is only one branch (Fig. 2 #130), and it is associated with all of the load ports of the stocker. The other branch of Liu cannot even be considered a part of the track load part, since it is not associated with any of the stocker ports. This other branch of Liu is really just the main branch or delivery part.

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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ryan A. Jarrett whose telephone number is (571) 272-3742. The examiner can normally be reached on 10:00-6:30 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Leo Picard can be reached on (571) 272-3749. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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6. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Ryan A. Jarrett
Examiner
Art Unit 2125

RAJ
8/17/05

Albert W. Paladini 8-22-05
ALBERT W. PALADINI
PRIMARY EXAMINER